

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, claims 1-32 were rejected on grounds of statutory double patenting over United States Patent No. 6,602,839. Also, claim 31 was rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite.

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled original claims 1-31 and has presented new claims 32-45 for examination. New claims 32-45 are fully supported by the written description contained in parent application Serial No. 09/372,714 filed on August 11, 1999 and, accordingly, are entitled to the benefit of the August 11, 1999 filing date of that parent application. Also, new claims 32-45 are clearly different from the claims of United States Patent No. 6,602,839. Thus, no new matter has been added and the stated double patenting rejection has been obviated.

Also by the present amendment, Applicant has amended page one of the specification to clarify the chain of related applications in accordance with that set forth on the official filing receipt for this application.

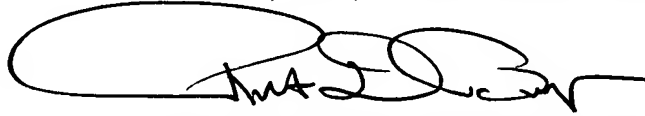
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel to discuss any measures that may be taken to advance prosecution of this application and expedite issuance of a notice of allowance.

No extension of time or fee is seen to be due in connection with the filing of this

response. However, should any extension of time or other fee be properly deemed to be due, such fee may be deducted from Deposit Account No. 50-0878.

Respectfully submitted,
STOUT, UXA, BUYAN & MULLINS, LLP

Date: April 26, 2005



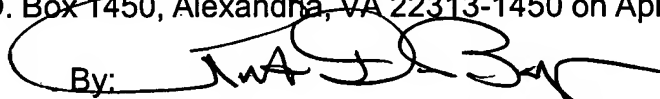
Robert D. Buyan, Reg. No. 32,460

4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, California 92618
voice: 949/450-1750
fax: 949/450-1764

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 26, 2005.

Dated: April 26, 2005

By: 

Robert D. Buyan, Reg. No. 32,460